

Honeymoon Trail, Sept 23, 2016

# Superior National Forest

## Fall Color Report September 23, 2016

**“Change is a measure of time and, in the autumn, time seems speeded up. What was is not and never again will be; what is is change.”**

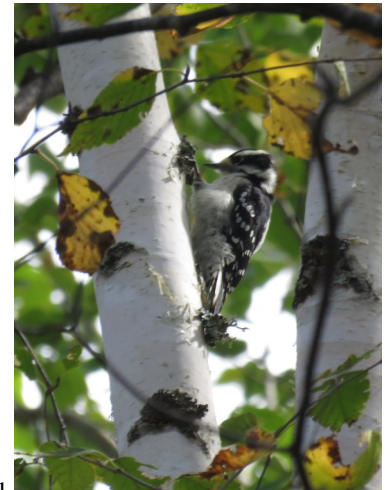
- Edwin Teale



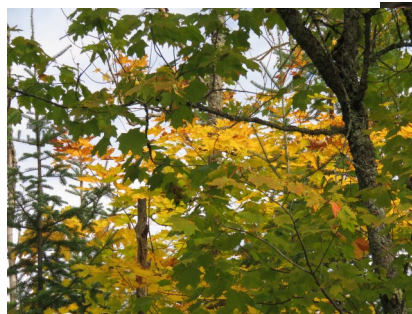
**Fall rolling toward winter is like a child racing to adulthood.** It starts slowly, but then picks up momentum. To a parent at the beginning, it seems like childhood will never end - then, one day, you discover he's got a driver's license instead of a tricycle. And, at the start of September, it seems impossible that all those green leaves will change color and the woods will be entirely



orange and yellow in October, let alone bare by November. The summer forest with a few signs of fall becomes almost overnight the fall forest with a few signs left of summer. Things move fast in the fall. People try to use cameras to halt the seasons and slow the passage of time. They have phones choked with gigabytes of preserved time, pictures of orange leaves, pictures of the first day of school, all carefully put up like fall applesauce in canning jars. But applesauce isn't really the same as a fall apple straight from the tree. We talk of capturing images, but you can no more capture the fall than you can capture the child speeding past. The best you can do is be a part of it, racing alongside the changing maples and



the growing child, sharing what time you can, until you can't keep up anymore, and you have to stop and just watch the winter coming on. All too soon, the last leaf will fall, the child will be off to college, and all that will be left are bare branches and the echo of bare feet running through the house.



**This weekend, pack an apple or two, grab your kid, your dog, or your friend, and go for a hike in the fall woods.**

Leave the camera and phone behind, and just experience it. The forest has gone from a mere 5% changed to 25% to 40% changed. In some inland areas, people are reporting 75% or more, but on the North Shore, there are still places as low as 10%.